

## CLAIMS

Having thus described the aforementioned invention, we claim:

1           1.     A method for collecting, organizing, presenting and utilizing  
2 data relative to a disaster or terrorist action site for use by an emergency  
3 response team in responding at the site, said method comprising the steps  
4 of:

5           a)     collecting data relative to a facility including at least one of a  
6 photograph, a spherical image, a site plan, a floor plan, chemical storage  
7 data, and fire equipment location information;

8           b)     storing said data in memory on a computer, said data being  
9 organized in a both a hierarchy and across spatial diagrams;

10          c)     inputting data relative to an emergency situation located at an  
11 emergency site;

12          d)     selecting data within said hierarchy and said spatial diagrams  
13 necessary to assess said emergency situation;

14          e)     preparing a response to the emergency situation;

15          f)     responding to the emergency situation in a manner consistent  
16 with said step of preparing a response; and

17          g)     updating said data as the emergency situation continues.

1           2.     The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of collecting data  
2 through said step of updating data is performed using a computer, and  
3 wherein a responder assets management system is resident within said  
4 memory.

1           3.     The method of Claim 2 wherein said responder assets  
2 management system includes at least one of an information module, a

1 logistics module, an operations module, and a planning module.

1 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said information module  
2 includes a link to at least one of a local weather information source, a  
3 national weather information source, and said data stored in said memory,  
4 wherein said step of selecting data is performed by choosing a selected said  
5 link.

1 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein said link to said data accesses  
2 an information tree and wherein said step of selecting data is performed by  
3 scrolling through said information tree to find selected of said data.

1 6. The method of Claim 3 wherein said logistics module assists in  
2 managing equipment resources during an emergency response, said  
3 logistics module managing equipment information including at least one of  
4 title, location, date and time of use, and date and time of return, wherein  
5 said step of preparing a response includes the step of determining  
6 availability of equipment for use in responding.

1 7. The method of Claim 3 wherein said operations module includes  
2 a plurality of interfaces including at least one of a situational awareness  
3 interface, an operations manager interface, a messenger interface and a  
4 status board interface, said step of responding to the emergency situation  
5 including the step of accessing at least one of said plurality of interfaces.

1 8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said situational awareness  
2 interface is provided for a virtual walk-through, pre-incident planning,  
3 contingency planning, training visualization, and operational support using  
4 said data stored in said memory, said step of accessing at least one of said

1 plurality of interfaces including the step of reviewing said data using said  
2 situational awareness interface.

1 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said step of accessing at least  
2 one of said plurality of interfaces further includes the step of annotating  
3 said data with information specific to the emergency situation including at  
4 least one of a description of extent of damage, and location of equipment  
5 and personnel.

1 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of accessing at least  
2 one of said plurality of interfaces further includes the step of transmitting  
3 said data for review at a remote location.

1 11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said data includes at least one  
2 of a floor plan, a site plan and a map, wherein at least one icon representing  
3 localized information is indicated on said data to indicate location of a  
4 particular item, said step of reviewing said data further including the step of  
5 selecting said at least one icon to reveal said localized information.

1 12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said situational awareness  
2 interface includes an incident layer in which information specific to a  
3 particular emergency situation is stored, wherein said step of reviewing said  
4 data further includes the step of reviewing said information specific to the  
5 particular emergency situation.

1 13. The method of Claim 7 wherein said operations manager  
2 interface is provided for remotely monitoring progress during the emergency  
3 situation, said step of responding to the emergency situation including the  
4 step of creating a record of said response to the emergency situation

1 including at least the time the emergency situation occurred, and the nature  
2 of the emergency situation.

1 14. The method of Claim 7 wherein said messenger interface is  
2 provided to support informational messages and data update messages.

1 15. The method of Claim 7 wherein said status board interface is  
2 provided for automatically updating said operations module, said step of  
3 responding to the emergency situation including the step of monitoring said  
4 data during said response to the emergency situation.

1 16. A method for providing automated response relative to  
2 significant unplanned emergency situation, said method comprising the  
3 steps of:

- 4 a) collecting data relative to an emergency situation ;  
5 b) identifying at least one type of an emergency situation;  
6 c) inputting data relative to the known characteristics of said  
7 emergency situation;  
8 d) generating a response to said emergency situation: and  
9 e) tracking progress of said response to said emergency situation.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein said steps of collecting data  
2 through said step of tracking the progress of said response is performed  
3 using a computer and wherein a Responder Assets Management System is  
4 resident within said memory.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein said Responder Assets  
2 Management System includes at least one of an information module, a  
3 logistics module, an operations module, and a planning module.

1           19. The method of claim 18 wherein said operations module  
2 includes a response options generator interface.

1           20. The method of Claim 19 wherein said response options  
2 generator interface is provided for automated response, said response  
3 options generator including at least one automated checklist of at least one  
4 action to be completed for preparing a response to the emergency situation,  
5 wherein said step of responding to the emergency situation includes the  
6 step of following said at least one checklist throughout the duration of said  
response to the emergency situation.

1           21. The method of claim 20 wherein said step of responding to the  
2 emergency further includes the step of capturing by said checklist a date  
3 and time of completion of said at least one action.

1           22. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of responding to the  
2 emergency further includes the step of generating a response using said  
3 resource generator interface, said response comprising a list of at least one  
4 option to be considered as an appropriate response to said emergency  
5 situation.

1           23. The method of claim 22 wherein said at least one option is  
2 selectively includable and excludable.

1           24. The method of claim 23 wherein said step of responding to the  
2 emergency further includes the step of tracking a selected response to  
3 include date and time of initiation of each response and time to complete.

